



PATENTS

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

**Applicant(s):** Seiji Yamaguchi, et al.

**Examiner:** Unassigned

**Serial No:** 10/042,608

**Art Unit:** Unassigned

**Filed:** January 9, 2002

**Docket:** 15190

**For:** MEDICAL PRACTICE INFORMATION  
STORAGE AND SEARCHING SYSTEM  
AND MEDICAL PRACTICE  
INFORMATION STORAGE AND  
SEARCHING METHOD

**Dated:** February 28, 2002

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
United States Patent and Trademark Office  
Washington, D.C. 20231

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Sir:

Prior to examination, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

**IN THE SPECIFICATION:**

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 22, line 20, with the following rewritten paragraph:

--In step S29, the system determines whether the input selected on the hospital and geographic information screen 35 is the hospital detailed information button 36. When it is determined that the input selected on the hospital and geographic information screen 35 is

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**CERTIFICATE OF MAILING UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.8(a)**

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231, on February 28, 2002.

Dated: February 28, 2002

  
Michelle Mustafa

the hospital detailed information button 36, the system performs, in step S30, the hospital detailed information process to be discussed later, and then the routine loops to step S28. When it is determined in step S29 that the input selected on the hospital and geographic information screen 35 is not the hospital detailed information button 36, the routine proceeds to step S31.--

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 28, line 1, with the following rewritten paragraph:

--In step S53, the system determines whether the input selected on the detailed information selection menu screen 41 is the action to request item 47. When it is determined that the input selected on the detailed information selection menu screen 41 is the action to request item 47, the system performs, in step S54, an action to request process to be discussed later, and then loops to step S42. When it is determined in step S53 that the input selected on the detailed information selection menu screen 41 is not the action to request item 47, the selected input must be the quit menu 48. The system ends the process, and returns to step S28 in FIG. 6.--

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 31, line 5, with the following rewritten paragraph:

--In step S69, the system determines whether the input selected on the medical service record information selection menu screen 61 is the duration of hospitalization item 65. When it is determined that the input selected on the medical service record information selection menu screen 61 is the duration of hospitalization item 65, the system performs a duration of hospitalization information display process in step S70, thereby presenting a

duration of hospitalization display screen 74 as illustrated in FIG. 20. Trend data of the duration of hospitalization over the past several years is thus disclosed. If a return button 75 is pressed on the duration of hospitalization display screen 74, the routine loops to step S62. When it is determined in step S69 that the input selected on the medical service record information selection menu screen 61 is not the duration of hospitalization item 65, the routine proceeds to step S71.--

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 32, line 13, with the following rewritten paragraph:

--The trend data of the medical service record disclosed in the medical service record information process is used in the selection of a hospital. For example, the trend data of the patient count is now considered. Now, the patient count in a hospital A is indicated as shown in FIG. 17 while the patient count in a hospital B is indicated as shown in FIG. 22. Since the hospital A having an increasing trend in the number of patients is thought of as being more popular than the hospital B having a decreasing trend in the number of patients, people naturally choose the hospital A, expecting a more reliable treatment in the hospital A. A hospital shown in FIG. 23 has substantial variations in the patient count thereof while a hospital shown in FIG. 24 has less variation in the patient count thereof. People choose the hospital shown in FIG. 24, expecting a reliable medical treatment in that hospital. The trend data disclosed in this way is used in the selection of hospitals.--

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 35, line 17, with the following rewritten paragraph:

--In step S87, the system determines whether the input selected on the study result information selection menu screen 81 is the researcher chronological table item 84. When it is determined that the input selected on the study result information selection menu screen 81 is the researcher chronological table item 84, the system performs a subject of study chronological table process in step S88, thereby presenting a researcher chronological table screen 92 on the user terminal as illustrated in FIG. 30. The results of the recent studies classified according to researcher are thus disclosed. If the study subject 88 is selected on the subject of study chronological table screen 91 using the mouse, etc., the study result display screen 89 is presented as illustrated in FIG. 28. If the return button 90 is pressed on the study result display screen 89, the routine loops to step S82. When it is determined in step S87 that the input selected on the study result information selection menu screen 81 is not the researcher chronological table item 84, the routine proceeds to step S89.--

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 37, line 6, with the following rewritten paragraph:

--The medical staff information process in step S48 illustrated in FIG. 10 is discussed hereinafter. In the medical staff information process, a medical staff information selection menu screen 101 shown in FIG. 33 is presented on the user terminal in step S101 as illustrated in FIG. 32.--

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 37, line 20, with the following rewritten paragraph:

--In step S103, the system determines whether the input selected on the medical staff information selection menu screen 101 is the staff member count item 102. When it is determined that the input selected on the medical staff information selection menu screen 101 is the staff member count item 102, the system performs a medical staff member count information display process in step S104, thereby presenting a medical staff member count display screen 105 on the user terminal as illustrated in FIG. 34. A staff member count of all staff members, classified into physicians, nurses, and other staff members, is thus disclosed. The change in the staff member count is disclosed in a graph. If a return button is pressed on the medical staff member count display screen 105, the routine loops to step S102. When it is determined in step S103 that the input selected on the medical staff information selection menu screen 101 is not the staff member count 102, the routine proceeds to step S105.--

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 38, line 14, with the following rewritten paragraph:

--In step S105, the system determines whether the input selected on the medical staff information selection menu screen 101 is the physician's medical career item 103. When it is determined that the input selected on the medical staff information selection menu screen 101 is the physician's medical career item 103, the system performs a physician's medical career display process in step S106, thereby presenting a physician's medical career display screen 106 on the user terminal as illustrated in FIG. 35. The medical career of each physician is thus disclosed. If a return button is pressed on the physician's

medical career display screen 106, the routine loops to step S102. When it is determined in step S105 that the input selected on the medical staff information selection menu screen 101 is not the physician's medical career item 103, the selected input must be the quit menu 104. The system then ends the process, and returns the step S42 illustrated in FIG. 10.--

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 42, line 7, with the following rewritten paragraph:

--In step S145, the system determines whether the input selected on the hospital searching screen 141 is a medical department name. When it is determined that the input selected on the hospital searching screen 141 is a medical department name, the system performs a medical department searching process in step S146, thereby presenting search results in the hospital name list display area 144 on the hospital searching screen 141. When it is determined in step S145 that the input selected on the hospital searching screen 141 is not a medical department name, the routine proceeds to step S147.--

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 46, line 23, with the following rewritten paragraph:

--In step S185, the system determines whether a second search button 183 has been pressed on the dining menu screen 182. When it is determined that the second search button 183 has been pressed on the dining menu screen 182, the routine loops to step S181. When it is determined that the second search button 183 has not been pressed on the dining menu screen 182, the system waits until a quit button 174 is clicked on the dining menu screen 182 in step S186. When the quit button 184 is clicked, the system ends the process.--

**IN THE DRAWINGS:**

Attached is a "Request For Approval of Drawing Changes" accompanying amended drawings showing the changes in red ink.

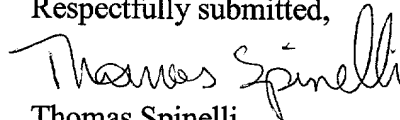
**REMARKS**

It is respectfully requested that this Preliminary Amendment be entered in the above-identified application prior to examination.

By means of the present Preliminary Amendment, the specification has been amended to correct errors therein and inconsistencies with the drawings. Furthermore, Figure 6 has been amended to include "Yes" and "No" designations on decision S31. No new matter has been entered by way of the present preliminary amendment.

In view of the above, early and favorable consideration are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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Encl. (Version with Markings to Show Changes Made;  
Request For Approval of Drawings Changes)

**VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE**

**In the specification:**

Paragraph beginning at line 20 of page 22 has been amended as follows:

In step S29, the system determines whether the input selected on the hospital and geographic information screen 35 is the hospital detailed information button 36. When it is determined that the input selected on the hospital and geographic information screen 35 is the hospital detailed information button 36, the system performs, in step S30, the hospital detailed information process to be discussed later, and then the routine loops to step S28 [S27]. When it is determined in step S29 that the input selected on the hospital and geographic information screen 35 is not the hospital detailed information button 36, the routine proceeds to step S31.

Paragraph beginning at line 1 of page 28 has been amended as follows:

In step S53, the system determines whether the input selected on the detailed information selection menu screen 41 is the action to request item 47. When it is determined that the input selected on the detailed information selection menu screen 41 is the action to request item 47, the system performs, in step S54, an action to request process to be discussed later, and then loops to step S42. When it is determined in step S53 that the input selected on the detailed information selection menu screen 41 is not the action to request item 47, the selected input must be the quit menu 48. The system ends the process, and returns to step S28 [S27] in FIG. 6.



Paragraph beginning at line 1 of page 28 has been amended as follows:

In step S69, the system determines whether the input selected on the medical service record information selection menu screen 61 is the duration of hospitalization item 65. When it is determined that the input selected on the medical service record information selection menu screen 61 is the duration of hospitalization item 65, the system performs a duration of hospitalization information display process in step S70 [S68], thereby presenting a duration of hospitalization display screen 74 as illustrated in FIG. 20. Trend data of the duration of hospitalization over the past several years is thus disclosed. If a return button 75 is pressed on the duration of hospitalization display screen 74, the routine loops to step S62. When it is determined in step S69 that the input selected on the medical service record information selection menu screen 61 is not the duration of hospitalization item 65, the routine proceeds to step S71.

Paragraph beginning at line 13 of page 32 has been amended as follows:

The trend data of the medical service record disclosed in the medical service record information process is used in the selection of a hospital. For example, the trend data of the patient count is now considered. Now, the patient count in a hospital A is indicated as shown in FIG. 17 while the patient count in a hospital B [A] is indicated as shown in FIG. 22. Since the hospital A having an increasing trend in the number of patients is thought of as being more popular than the hospital B having a decreasing trend in the number of patients, people naturally choose the hospital A, expecting a more reliable treatment in the hospital A. A hospital shown in FIG. 23 has substantial variations in the patient count thereof while a hospital shown in FIG. 24 has less variation in the patient count thereof. People choose the

hospital shown in FIG. 24, expecting a reliable medical treatment in that hospital. The trend data disclosed in this way is used in the selection of hospitals.

Paragraph beginning at line 17 of page 35 has been amended as follows:

In step S87, the system determines whether the input selected on the study result information selection menu screen 81 is the researcher chronological table item 84. When it is determined that the input selected on the study result information selection menu screen 81 is the researcher chronological table item 84, the system performs a subject of study chronological table process in step S88, thereby presenting a researcher chronological table screen 92 on the user terminal as illustrated in FIG. 30. The results of the recent studies classified according to researcher are thus disclosed. If the study subject 88 is selected on the subject of study chronological table screen 91 using the mouse, etc., the study result display screen 89 is presented as illustrated in FIG. 28. If the return button 90 is pressed on the study result display screen 89, the routine loops to step S82. When it is determined in step S87 that the input selected on the study result information selection menu screen 81 is not the researcher chronological table item 84, the routine proceeds to step S89.

Paragraph beginning at line 6 of page 37 has been amended as follows:

The medical staff information process in step S48 illustrated in FIG. 10 is discussed hereinafter. In the medical staff information process, a medical staff information selection menu screen 101 [94] shown in FIG. 33 is presented on the user terminal in step S101 as illustrated in FIG. 32.

Paragraph beginning at line 20 of page 37 has been amended as follows:

In step S103, the system determines whether the input selected on the medical staff information selection menu screen 101 is the staff member count item 102. When it is determined that the input selected on the medical staff information selection menu screen 101 is the staff member count item 102, the system performs a medical staff member count information display process in step S104, thereby presenting a medical staff member count display screen 105 on the user terminal as illustrated in FIG. 34. A staff member count of all staff members, classified into physicians, nurses, and other staff members, is thus disclosed. The change in the staff member count is disclosed in a graph. If a return button [106] is pressed on the medical staff member count display screen 105, the routine loops to step S102. When it is determined in step S103 that the input selected on the medical staff information selection menu screen 101 is not the staff member count 102, the routine proceeds to step S105.

Paragraph beginning at line 14 of page 38 has been amended as follows:

In step S105, the system determines whether the input selected on the medical staff information selection menu screen 101 is the physician's medical career item 103. When it is determined that the input selected on the medical staff information selection menu screen 101 is the physician's medical career item 103, the system performs a physician's medical career display process in step S106, thereby presenting a physician's medical career display screen 106 on the user terminal as illustrated in FIG. 35. The medical career of each physician is thus disclosed. If a return button [107] is pressed on the physician's medical career display screen 106, the routine loops to step S102. When it is determined in step S105 that the input selected on the medical staff information selection menu screen 101 is not the

physician's medical career item 103, the selected input must be the quit menu 104. The system then ends the process, and returns the step S42 illustrated in FIG. 10.

Paragraph beginning at line 7 of page 42 has been amended as follows:

In step S145, the system determines whether the input selected on the hospital searching screen 141 is a medical department name. When it is determined that the input selected on the hospital searching screen 141 is a medical department name, the system performs a medical department [hospital name] searching process in step S146, thereby presenting search results in the hospital name list display area 144 on the hospital searching screen 141. When it is determined in step S145 that the input selected on the hospital searching screen 141 is not a medical department name, the routine proceeds to step S147.

Paragraph beginning at line 23 of page 46 has been amended as follows:

In step S185, the system determines whether a second search button 183 has been pressed on the dining menu screen 182. When it is determined that the second search button 183 has been pressed on the dining menu screen 182, the routine loops to step S181 [S185]. When it is determined that the second search button 183 has not been pressed on the dining menu screen 182, the system waits until a quit button 174 is clicked on the dining menu screen 182 in step S186. When the quit button 184 is clicked, the system ends the process.

FIG.6

